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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
PETERSFIELD.

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Medical Officer of Health

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ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 1938.



# THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PETERSFIELD.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN

AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*July, 1939.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Works of the Rural District for the year 1938, which Report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Since the end of the year under review, I have taken up an appointment under another Authority, and my association with your Council has therefore ceased.

I take this opportunity of thanking your Council for your kind consideration and assistance at all times, and my thanks are also extended to your staff for their ready co-operation and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is principally Residential, with areas devoted to Agriculture and Dairy Farming in the more rural parts.

Fruit growing and hop growing are two industries which are, to a large extent, carried out in the parishes of Liss, Buriton and Hawkley.

Employment in these centres is more or less seasonable, and during the picking season there is an influx of labour into the locality. During the remainder of the year the number employed in these industries is comparatively small.

There are no factories in the District apart from a number of what may be termed Factory Workshops, and Workshops. A large number of these are purely family affairs which employ very little outside labour.

A number of workpeople resident in the Rural District are employed at a Factory in the Urban District of Petersfield.

### Statistics.

Area of District in Acres (estimated) ...	...	56,155
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ...	...	15,620
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) ...	...	4,186
Rateable Value ...	...	£101,458
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	£399

### Births and Deaths.

#### Live Births—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	198	92	106
Illegitimate ...	13	6	7
Still Births ...	9	5	4
Deaths ...	190	80	110
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	...	...	13.51
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	40.91
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : Crude, 12.16 ; Adjusted ...	...	...	10.47
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :—			

		Rate per 1000	
		Deaths	(live & still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	71.09
All Infants per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)	...	...	53.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	70.70
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	...	...	76.93
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1
Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	15.10
Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	11.60

### Causes of Death, 1938.

			Male	Female	Total
Influenza	...	...	—	2	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	3	3	6
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	—	1	1
Cancer	...	...	12	12	24
Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	6	7	13
Heart Disease	...	...	18	33	51
Aneurysm	...	...	1	—	1
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	13	9	22
Bronchitis	...	...	1	2	3
Pneumonia	...	...	3	6	9
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	4	4
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	2	—	2
Appendicitis	...	...	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	—	—	—
Other Liver diseases	...	...	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	—	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	2	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
Other Puerperal cases	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	2	8	10
Senility	...	...	1	4	5
Suicide	...	...	1	2	3
Other violence	...	...	1	4	5
Other defined causes	...	...	12	8	20
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilis G.P.I., etc.	...	...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	—	1	1
Total	...	...	80	110	190

The number of deaths from all causes in 1937 was 212.

Heart Disease and Cancer still remain the commonest causes of death, and during 1938 accounted for over 39 per cent. of all deaths in the district.

There are no local conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have any prejudicial effect on health.

The health and physique of children, as judged during school medical inspections, are well maintained, and there have been extremely few cases of malnutrition noted throughout the year.

### **General Provisions of Health Service for the Area.**

*Medical Officer of Health (also acting as Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare) :—*

W. S. SLATER, M.B.CH.B, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :—*

D. A. THOMAS.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :—*

P. P. CHAMINGS.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—The Hampshire County Council provide all facilities for the chemical and bacteriological examination of clinical material, water, milk, and foodstuffs, at their laboratory at Winchester.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—An Ambulance is provided and kept at the Isolation Hospital for infectious cases. For non-infectious and accident cases two Ambulances are provided and maintained by voluntary contribution at Petersfield. A Nurse is provided when needed.

The Rowlands Castle district is served by the Havant Ambulance, which is maintained by voluntary contribution.

**Nursing Home.**—The following Nursing Associations in the area employ District Nurses :—Petersfield, Sheet, Langrish, Liss, Greatham, Hawkley, Liphook, Buriton, Froxfield, Horndean, Rowlands Castle, Eastmeon, Privett, and Steep.

Nursing in the home is adequately provided for throughout the district. The Health Visitors of the County Council carry out visiting in cases of infectious disease, and are available in emergency.

**Midwives.**—Midwifery is undertaken by the majority of District Nurses. There are eight Midwives practising in the area.

The Local Authority does not employ or subsidise any midwives, but there is efficient co-ordination between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, to which the District Nursing Associations are affiliated. The County Council is the supervising Authority under the Act.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

	<i>At</i>	<i>Day of Month</i>
<b>Ante-natal Clinics</b>	Liphook	4th Thursday
	Liss	1st Wednesday
	Petersfield	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
	Havant	1st & 3rd Fridays
<b>Maternity and Child Welfare Centres</b> (held at 2.30 p.m.)	Horndean	2nd & 4th Tuesdays
	Petersfield	Wednesdays
	Liphook	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
	Liss	1st & 3rd Fridays
	Rowlands Castle	3rd Friday
<b>Orthopaedic Clinics</b> (serving the District)	Havant	Fridays, 2 p.m. Surgeon's day, 1st Friday
	Alton	Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Surgeon's day, 3rd Wednesday
<b>Tuberculosis Dispensary</b> (serving the district)	Havant	1st, 3rd and 4th Saturdays
<b>Venereal Diseases</b>	The treatment centre is at Portsmouth and is available for the district	

The above clinics are provided by the County Council, with the exception of the Petersfield Child Welfare Centre, which is controlled by a Voluntary Association. This Centre serves the villages of Buriton, Eastmeon, Sheet, Langrish, and Steep.



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### **Hospitals (Medical, Surgical and Maternity).**

The following Hospitals are used by the inhabitants of the district :—

Petersfield Hospital.  
Haslemere District Hospital.  
Havant War Memorial Hospital.  
Emsworth Cottage Hospital.  
Portsmouth Royal Hospital.  
Portsmouth Eye and Ear Infirmary.  
Winchester, Royal Hants County Hospital.

The Petersfield Public Assistance Institution has accommodation for 54 patients : 25 men, 27 women, and 2 beds for maternity cases.

### **Special Hospitals.**

The County Council has made arrangements for beds in Hospitals outside the area for the following medical services :—

#### **(a) Maternity, Puerperal Fever, and Pyrexia.**

Aldershot Maternity Unit, St. George's Road.  
Farnham, Hale Road Infirmary (arrangements for taking septic cases).  
Portsmouth, St. Mary's Hospital, Milton (arrangements for taking septic cases).  
Winchester, Royal Hants County Hospital (arrangements for taking septic cases).  
Normal cases, Maternity wards at Alton and Petersfield P.A.I's.

#### **(b) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Portsmouth Eye and Ear Hospital.  
Winchester, Royal Hants County Hospital.  
Southampton, Free Eye Hospital.



## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The Isolation Hospital is under the control of the Petersfield Joint Hospital Board. The accommodation has proved adequate during the year for cases from the Urban and Rural Districts, though the provision of cubicles or side-wards would help considerably in the general management of this hospital; it is expected that this will be provided in the near future. An efficient steam disinfecter is available for the sterilisation of articles from infected homes.

### **Small Pox Hospital.**

Where necessary the County Council provide arrangements for removal of cases to their Small Pox Hospital at Winchester.

### **Sanatoria.**

Sanatoria for cases of Tuberculosis provided by the County Council at Bishopstoke and Chandlers Ford.

### **Infant Life Protection.**

The Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, is administered by the County Council. All foster-parents and children are regularly visited by the Medical Staff or Health Visitors of the County, and suitable action taken if indicated.

### **Orthopaedic Treatment.**

Cases from Child Welfare Centres and Schools are referred to the Clinic held at Havant or Alton. Arrangements have been made at the 'Treloar Cripples' Hospital at Alton for those requiring hospital or operative treatment.

### **Maternity and Nursing Homes.**

There is one registered Nursing Home in the District.

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## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water Supplies.**

In view of the Memorandum 221 issued by the Ministry of Health in connection with the safeguarding of water supplies, your Council has given the matter full consideration with the view to making any provision necessary to protect your water supplies as far as reasonably possible.

The conditions at the Collecting areas of your several sources of supply remain unchanged. In all cases the land is more or less woodland with a certain amount of pasture. Periodical inspections are made of all Collecting areas, but at no time was anything discovered likely to cause contamination of the water supply. The only troublesome feature is the large amount of decaying vegetation found in some of the areas, and which has to some extent a deleterious effect on the quality of the water after heavy rainfalls.

Although the quality of the several supplies was well maintained, your Council installed chlorinating Plants at two sources of supply as a precautionary measure.

Although the springs in the chalk formation fell considerably during the early part of summer, a full supply of water was maintained throughout the whole of the district.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

The several Disposal Works within your district were operated in a very satisfactory manner, the final effluent from all the works being at all times up to the desired standard of purity.

The provision at the several Works for the treatment of sewage is adequate, except at the Liss works, where, owing to a considerable amount of infiltration into the sewers, the works can only deal with a percentage of the flow during the winter months.

### **Scavenging.**

The provision made by your Council for the services of refuse collection, night soil collection, and cesspool emptying is adequate in every respect.

The various services were efficiently carried out, and the very few complaints made were trivial.

Generally, your District is well and efficiently served with all the services which are essential and necessary to maintain the health of the community.

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## PARISH OF FROXFIELD.

The water supply provided for this parish has proved to be a tremendous boon to the inhabitants.

The vast majority of the properties in the Froxfield area have availed themselves of the service, but at the Privett end of the parish very little advantage has been taken of the facility provided. It is to be hoped that owners of properties will soon provide the necessary service to the number of Cottages in this locality, as no doubt the average working man would not hesitate to become a consumer should the service be made available.

During the year the quality of the water from the Ashford Springs was found to vary, but at no time was the water found to be unfit for domestic purposes. Your Council resolved, however, that it would be desirable, as a precaution, to sterilize the water before being passed into the service mains, and as a result of this resolution an electrically-operated chlorinating Plant was installed at the Pumping Station, which Plant automatically discharges chlorine into the suction pipes of the Pumps during Pumping operations only. The amount of chlorine necessary to render the water positively safe is approximately .75 parts of a pound per million gallons.

The whole Scheme has functioned remarkably well, and there was no interruption whatever to the supply during the year.

Your Council is to be congratulated on this Undertaking, as it was evident from the commencement that the Capital Charges would be much in excess of the anticipated revenue. Such has proved to be the case, and a large contribution is made from the Common Fund to meet the deficiency.

A large number of the Farming community have availed themselves of the supply.

## LANGRISH.

This parish is now supplied with an adequate supply of water, the Scheme having been completed during the year under review.

Both the villages of Langrish and Ramsdean are provided for, and practically every dwelling within reach of the service mains is served.

Water from your service is also extensively used for Agricultural purposes, and most farmers have abandoned their old indifferent supplies in favour of your service.

The Works were carried out well below the estimated cost, but the revenue will not meet the charges in expended Capital, and your Council has resolved to make an annual Grant from the Common Fund to help meet the deficiency.

## BURITON.

As mentioned in previous Reports, the water available at the Buriton Water Works was hardly adequate during the summer months, especially during periods of drought. There has been a tendency to increased consumption, and the conditions became worse each year.

Your Council gave the matter careful consideration with the view to improving the supply.

Your Council was advised that very little additional water, if any, could be obtained from the existing source of supply, and that it would be inadvisable to interfere with the Springs in view of the fact that they are deep seated in the Chalk Formation.

As a fairly large quantity of water flows to waste during the night hours, it was resolved that additional storage be provided at the Pumping Station, which storage could be utilised to augment the Springs when Pumping exceeded their yield.

During the summer a 15,000 gallon concrete storage tank was constructed in such a manner as to take the Well overflow at night time. This has proved to be of great assistance, as pumping can now be made continuous throughout the day.

Your Council has made application for sanction to a small loan to install an additional Pumping Plant at Pumping Station as a standby.

Practically all properties in the parish are now supplied from your service mains, except the group of dwellings in

Greenways Lane. The existing supply to these properties must be regarded as unsatisfactory, and efforts are now being made to induce the owners concerned to consider obtaining a service from your mains, the nearest point of which is approximately within half a mile of the properties.

## HAWKLEY.

At the end of the year the Water supply Scheme for the parish was nearing completion.

The Scheme consists of a Pumping Station near the Springs above Hawkley Mill, from which the water is raised to a service reservoir at the highest convenient point in the parish, near Uplands Farm.

The Pumps will be automatic electrically operated, for which purpose a special cable line had to be laid from Hawkley village.

The Pumping Station is situated at the top end of the existing Cress Beds, where a well was constructed immediately under the Building. A very prolific supply was found at a depth of eight feet, and at a depth of ten feet the inflow exceeded 12,000 gallons per hour. This was considered to be satisfactory, and no effort was made to increase the flow.

The well is constructed in such a manner as to exclude all surface water.

A recent analysis of the water shews it to be similar in character to the water obtained from other sources in the chalk formation, and is pronounced to be fit for all domestic purposes.

Your Council may, however, have to consider the question of chlorination, but this will, no doubt, be determined on the result of regular analysis of the water during the next rainy season.

The Wells supplying some of the properties at Hawkley have caused us some anxiety, and we can but look forward with anticipation to the closing down of these Wells in the near future.



## LISS.

The two supplies serving this parish were well maintained, and at no time was any shortage reported.

The Dosecombe supply fell to a very low level during the summer months, but the service was augmented from the Palmers Farm Pumping Station as in former years.

The high quality of the Palmers Farm water was maintained, while that of the Dosecombe supply fluctuated slightly during the winter months, but at no time was any appreciable degree of pollution recorded. The purity of the water does, however, vary slightly according to the season and the rainfall.

The Collecting area is periodically inspected, but at no time was anything found which would be likely to affect the quality of the water. The area is, however, covered to a large extent with growing timber and timber undergrowth, and the small variation in the quality of the water is attributed to decaying vegetation. Your Council fully considered the matter, and it was resolved that in order to maintain a high degree of purity, provision should be made to sterilise the water. During the summer a Chlorinating Plant was installed at a point as near the Reservoir as practicable. The sterilizing agent used at this point is Sodium Hypochlorite, and the chemical is automatically applied to the water main in ratio to the flow of water. The degree of sterilization necessary has been very small and has not in any way impaired the palatability of the water.

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In the parishes of Bramshott, Clanfield, Greatham, Horn-dean, and Rowlands Castle, the statutory Companies concerned maintained at all times an adequate supply of water.

Various extensions have been carried out in order to supply new building development.

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## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

### BRAMSHOTT.

The now enlarged works at Bramshott have proved adequate to deal with the steadily increasing discharge at the Disposal Works.

The Works have functioned very satisfactorily throughout the year, and the resultant effluent has at all times more than satisfied the requirements of the Thames Conservancy Board.

Although the Works are functioning so well, complaints have continuously been made by some of the residents adjoining the Works, and within the Rural District of Alton. I have at all times been impressed by the cleanly state obtaining at the Disposal Works, and during periodical visits, have failed to find any condition to justify the complaints made.

The object of the Works is obviously to *dispose* of foul sewage matter, and in this process there must of necessity be a certain degree of effluvium, but in my observation this element at Bramshott has not been at all pronounced.

The Council has, however, given the matter careful consideration, and, without admitting any justification for the complaints made, have resolved to carry out an improvement in order to satisfy the demands of the adjoining Residents.

Your Engineer recommended to your Council the chlorinating of the sewage in the main outfall sewer at a point well above the Works. Expert opinion was obtained and the Ministry of Health consulted, and the opinion was that any prevalent effluvium would be disposed of to a very large extent by treatment with chlorine.

As a result, your Council decided to install a Chlorinating Plant on the main outfall sewer at a point where the sewer crosses Tunbridge Lane.

The necessary land has been provisionally acquired for a small Station Building, and application made to the Ministry for sanction to a Loan of £600 for the erection of the Building and the purchase of Plant.

Owing to projected Building Development on the Gunns Farm Estate, your Council resolved to extend the sewer in the



Midhurst Road in order to serve this Estate. The major portion of the cost was borne by the Estate owners, who have also laid the necessary sewers on the Estate.

During the year the work of extending the sewers to Bramshott Village was carried out at a cost of approximately £4,000. This extension was very necessary, not only to dispense with the unsatisfactory conditions in Bramshott Village, but also to provide for Building development which will no doubt take place in that locality in the near future. Practically all properties on the route of the sewer had been connected by the end of the year.

I am glad to report that all properties within the parish that could be conveniently drained to the sewers have now been connected.

#### LISS DISPOSAL WORKS.

The conditions at these Works are the same as reported last year.

Owing to the tremendous infiltration of water into the sewers, the Works are badly surecharged, and consequently the major portion of the sewage has to be discharged into the adjoining stream after having received Tank treatment only.

As the quantity of sewage being actually treated at the Works is strictly limited, the effluent has been more or less satisfactory, and it may be assumed that, under normal conditions, the Works would function satisfactorily.

Your Council has fully considered the conditions obtaining at these Works, and has resolved that the Works be extended as necessary in order to be able to deal with the Dry Weather flow now discharging at the Works, which is approximately 150,000 gallons per day, and that no provision be made other than Tank treatment for flow in excess of this amount.

Plans have been prepared by your Surveyor for Works of extension embodying the following Units :—

One new Sedimentation Tank—Capacity 18,500 galls.

One new Pereolating Filter, having a diameter of 85 feet, and a cubic capacity of 750 yards.

Additions to the Dosing Chamber.

Concrete-constructed Sludge Drying Beds.

Your Council also resolved that every effort be made to locate the points of infiltration in the sewers, and to carry out any necessary works of repair. Owing to the waterlogged condition of the ground generally, the proposed works were postponed until the coming summer, when it is hoped conditions will be more favourable.

## ROWLANDS CASTLE.

The Sewage Disposal Scheme provided for this parish has proved to be a tremendous boon and is very much appreciated by the inhabitants.

The Works have functioned fairly satisfactorily, and the resultant sewage effluent is of a high standard of purity.

All properties in the parish convenient to the sewers have been connected.

## HORNDEAN.

The Sewage Works in this parish were found to be adequate for all requirements, and no additional expenditures were incurred in connection with sewerage during the year.

Two extensions were carried out by private enterprise to serve Building Estates; this work involved no expense to your Council.

The Parish is now well served by sewers.

A considerable amount of Building development has taken place in the parish during the last four years, and as a result, your Council may anticipate further expenditure in the near future in connection with the Disposal Works at Hart Plain, which works are jointly maintained by your Council and the Havant and Waterloo Urban District Council.

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Your Council is to be congratulated on the enterprise shewn in connection with the question of Sewage Disposal. Four of your more populated parishes, affecting a population of approximately 8,000, are now provided with modern sewage disposal works, and having a total length of approximately 45,322 yards. OF SEWERS.

Modern Housing development demands modern methods for the disposal of sewage, and the provision of such facilities will always foster the better type of development.

There are other areas within your district where facilities for sewage disposal would be welcomed by the community, but the conditions at present do not signify any great urgency, especially in these days of high costs.

It should be noted, however, that in the Five Years Programme of anticipated Expenditure sent to the Ministry, the sewerage of Buriton and Eastmeon villages was provided for.

### **RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

The conditions of all rivers and streams within your district continues to be satisfactory, and no case of pollution was recorded.

There has been a marked improvement in the several watercourses in the Parish of Rowlands Castle, a condition attributed to the fact that all properties are now connected to your sewers, where formerly numerous properties discharged all foul water direct into these streams.

A recent visit of inspection of these water-courses failed to disclose any evidence of pollution whatever.

As previously reported, the River Meon, which runs through the village of Eastmeon, received a certain amount of foul water from properties in the village, but the few cases known are of long standing and cannot be regarded as being serious.

The District being purely non-industrial, there is therefore no pollution whatever from trade wastes.

### **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

Very good progress has been made in the work of Closet accommodation and conversion. All properties convenient to sewers in the parishes of Bramshott, Clanfield, Horndean, Rowlands Castle, and Steep have now been provided with drainage systems, and the Earth Closets converted into water closets, the number of conversions being 20.

In localities where no sewer facilities are available, the Earth Closet is generally used, but in a large number of areas where a main water supply is available, properties are provided with modern systems of drainage, and in the absence of sewers the sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools. This

system of drainage is at present very common in the parish of Clanfield and part of Horndean parish, where the subsoil is of chalk to a considerable depth, and where such systems of drainage appear to function indefinitely with but very little attention.

The old-fashioned midden has practically ceased to exist in your district, and wherever one is discovered, every endeavour is made to have it converted.

There is no record of a new midden having been constructed in your district during the last 20 years, although they are still permissible under your present Bye-laws. The construction of middens will, however, be prohibited under the new Bye-laws which will become operative in July next, in pursuance of the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

No complaint or protest has been made in regard to the adequacy or otherwise of the services given, but complaints are frequently received, chiefly from persons who have recently lived in Towns, in regard to the requirement of having to place the Refuse Receptacle on the roadside on the Collecting day.

The complaints invariably request that the Receptacles be removed from the rear of premises by your Council's employees.

This added service is very desirable, but if applied to all the parishes concerned, it would mean considerable added expense to the general Ratepayer.

The services now given by your Council are, in my opinion, very reasonable, having regard to the scattered rural character of your District, and compare most favourably with other districts of similar character.

During the year a number of cesspools and Earth Closets have been dispensed with in the parish of Bramshott as the result of the sewerage system having been extended to the Bramshott village area, and the drainage of the King George's Sanatorium is also now received into your sewer.

In the outlying parts of the parishes of Bramshott, Liss, and Rowlands Castle, a service of cesspool emptying is still given, but the number of cesspools emptied remains steady as building development now principally occurs in localities where water and sewerage facilities are available.



House refuse is disposed of in approved Dumps at Horn-dean, Liss, and Bramshott. At Bramshott and Horn-dean the dumps consist of old disused quarries, which are admirably suited for the purpose, while at Liss the refuse is disposed of on low, boggy land acquired for the purpose, and covered with soil.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

As in previous years, the Inspection Work has been conscientiously carried out by all the Officers concerned.

There is no feature which requires special mention ; the inspections made are generally those necessary under the various statutes.

The year was marked by the coming into operation of the new Public Health Act, which, to a large extent, amends the old legislation in respect of matters directly or indirectly concerning Public Health.

The new Act is still young, and one cannot at this stage express any observations on its merits or otherwise, but it is sufficient to state that the new Act is one which has been gladly welcomed by all concerned in Public Health matters.

The following is a summary of the inspections made under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

Inspections and visits to Slaughterhouses, etc.	...	910
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies, etc.	...	662
Inspections in connection with nuisances	...	57
Inspections in connection with water supplies	...	56
Inspections of drains	...	159
Number of drains tested	...	44
Infectious diseases investigations	...	56
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	24
Shop Inspections	...	12
School Inspections	...	19
Inspections of Fruit and Hop Pickers' accommodation	...	34
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	36
Visits for purposes of Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	127
Visits regarding Overcrowding	...	15
Milk samples taken	...	80
Water Samples from wells, etc.	...	13

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### **Shops Act.**

I am pleased to report that the provisions of this Act are generally complied with throughout your district.

There are, of course, no large shopping centres in the District, and the number of Assistants employed is generally small.

No formal action was found necessary.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

Your district is, fortunately, practically immune from the smoke scourge common to the Industrial areas, and factory smoke to any appreciable degree is but rarely seen.

Records shew that no complaints have been received in regard to a smoke nuisance during the past twelve years.

It is hoped that Town and Country Planning legislation will debar the spoliation of the countryside by hideous chimney stacks, and that should factories be at any time erected, every effort will be made to induce those responsible to avoid the use of smoke-producing power units.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

With some measure of regret, I have to report that there are no public Baths or Swimming Pools within your District, neither are there any available within a reasonable distance of your populated centres.

Limited bathing facilities are available during the summer season in the local river.

It is to be regretted that such facilities cannot be made available for the youth of the district.

Bathing facilities are provided at two of the Educational establishments within your district, but their use is restricted to the scholars.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

It is gratifying to note that not a single case of Bug infestation was recorded during the year.

The immunity of your district to this form of pest is difficult to understand, especially in the lower part of the district where a portion of the population may be termed as more or less "Floating."

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One must assume that either the air and soil are somewhat distasteful to the bug, or the existence of the bug is cleverly concealed. However, it is to be hoped that it is the former, and that the immunity will continue.

### **Schools.**

I am pleased to be able to report favourably on the 21 schools within your district, three of which are private boarding schools.

Sporadic outbreaks of Scarlet Fever occurred at different times, but in each case the outbreak was confined to a small area.

Of the 21 schools, I am pleased to report that 19 are now provided with a good wholesome supply of water from the several water supplies, and the old conditions under which it was assumed that any kind of water supply was good enough for a school are practically passed.

At Horndean, temporary accommodation has been provided for the children since the School building was destroyed by fire. This temporary accommodation is more or less satisfactory for a short time, but one cannot but feel that both teachers and children are at a disadvantage under such circumstances.

However, work has been commenced on the new building, and it is to be hoped that the re-opening will not be long delayed.

All schools generally were found kept in a clean and satisfactory state, and the sanitary conditions were generally found good.

### **Housing.**

The progress in housing development, as in previous years, was somewhat disappointing. This may be attributed to various reasons, but one potent reason was the higher cost of material and labour.

The demand for the better class type of house has diminished, and the number erected was well below the average for the past five years.

The number of cottages which may be termed as suitable for the Working Classes has also fallen off, especially in the Northern part of the district.



There is, apparently, some demand for the small type of dwelling in the Southern part of the district, but it must be assumed that the majority of those erected are occupied by persons drawn from other localities, especially from Portsmouth.

In view of the national situation, it must be presumed that these developments will tend to continue.

It may be accepted that the demand in the Southern area is more or less met by private enterprise. It must be appreciated, however, that a large percentage of Working Class dwellings in this area are of post war construction, so that the question of the replacement of unfit houses is not so pronounced as in other parts.

In the Northern part of your district the demand for a low-rented cottage is ever present, for in this area the standard of employment and wages (except in the Building Trade) is generally lower, so that the demand for a cheaper cottage is more pronounced.

No serious case of overcrowding was recorded during the year, and the overcrowding disclosed as the result of the Housing Survey of 1936 is now practically disposed of.

As part of your Housing Programme, your Council had in progress 8 new houses, four being at Liss and four at Finchdean, in the parish of Rowlands Castle. The inclusive cost of these houses will be nearly £400 per house, and it is observed that your Council will not be able to obtain anything approaching the "economic" rent. Two of these houses only will rank for exchequer Grants.

Some of the condemned cottages at Passfield are still occupied, and there is at the moment no immediate prospect of the necessary new houses being commenced in view of the incredible difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable land. I am pleased to record, however, that negotiations are practically completed for the purchase of approximately 17 acres of land at Griggs Green, which, when acquired, will provide land for Housing in Bramshott parish for some years to come.

I can report but very poor progress under the provision of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and our records shew that six houses only were reconditioned during the year.

It is difficult to understand the apathy of the many property owners who, to some extent, house their own

employees. I am still of the opinion that the restriction on the rent which may be charged is the principal obstacle to a successful operation of the Act. It is appreciated, however, that the object of the Act is to improve the Housing conditions of the agricultural worker, but the principles of the Act could be given a wider scope with advantage.

During the year the Housing (Financial Provisions) Bill became operative. This Act provides for liberal Exchequer assistance in connection with the provision of Cottages for the Agricultural worker, either by a Local Authority or by private enterprise, and it is hoped that much advantage will be taken of this excellent facility.

Your Council has also resolved to adopt a Scheme for the advancing of Loans under the provisions of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, under which persons will be enabled to borrow through your Council for the purchase of existing houses, or to acquire newly-erected houses, subject to a limited value.

I submit herewith a tabulated list of all dwelling houses erected in your district during the year, and set out under the several parishes :—

Parish.	Houses suitable for the Working Classes.	All other Houses.	Total.
Bramshott ... ..	19	3	22
Buriton ... ..	2	—	2
Clanfield ... ..	11	1	12
Colemore and Priorsdene	—	—	—
Eastmeon ... ..	—	—	—
Froxfield ... ..	3	1	4
Greatham ... ..	—	—	—
Horndean ... ..	27	5	32
Hawkley ... ..	—	—	—
Langrish ... ..	—	—	—
Liss ... ..	4	2	6
Steep ... ..	2	—	2
Rowlands Castle ...	2	1	3

The total number of houses completed during the year was 83, as compared with 80, 109, 133, 155, and 126 respectively for the five preceding years.

The Housing situation within your district may be regarded as being generally satisfactory, but, as in all other matters, there is room for continuous advancement and improvement.

The work of inspections has been diligently carried on, as evidenced by the following record :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—			
1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	332
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	... ..	423
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		216
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	287
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	Nil
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	83
2. Number of defective houses remedied during the Year without service of formal notices :—			
	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	72
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—			
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By owners	... ..	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	1
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

The production or manufacture of Food stuffs is still limited to milk, fruit and hops, and of these milk production predominates.

There are no factories in your district for the preparation or manufacture of articles of food.

Milk is produced to a large extent throughout the whole of the District, and is indeed the principal industry. A steady increase is shewn in the number of Producers placed on the "Accredited Roll," and every effort is being made to interest other Producers in the "Accredited Scheme." The "Accredited Scheme" is undoubtedly a very progressive step towards the improvement of the milk standard generally,

and we may look forward with keen anticipation to the time when practically all Producers will participate.

The retail trading of milk within your District may be regarded as being extremely satisfactory, as the vast majority of milk is now delivered in bottles, which, in all cases, are filled under satisfactory conditions.

The conditions under which milk is produced and handled is on the whole extremely satisfactory, and to this end no less than 662 visits were made to premises where milk is produced.

During the year, 80 samples were submitted to the Analyst for examination, of which number 75 were Bacteriologically examined and 5 were examined for Biological purposes. Of the former number the results shewed 60 per cent. to be entirely satisfactory, which result may be regarded as being exceptionally good having regard to the fact that all the samples were taken from Producers not on the Accredited Roll.

The five samples taken for Biological purposes were all returned "Negative."

The County Council scheme for supplying milk to School children is still in operation, and a good percentage of children in the various schools participate.

### **Nutrition.**

Particular attention is paid to cases of sub-normal nutrition discovered at child welfare centres and school medical inspections. Advice on diet is given to parents, a home visit is paid to ascertain circumstances, and regular weighing and measuring of such mal-nourished children follow to note progress.

Free milk is available at Schools and at Child Welfare Centres for cases of malnutrition where circumstances indicate it.

### **Food and Drugs Act.**

During the year, 91 samples were taken in the District for analysis under the provisions of the above Act, of which number 55 were samples of new milk.



All samples other than milk were found to be of genuine quality.

Five of the Milk samples were found unsatisfactory ; in each case the milk was found to be deficient in fat. In one of these cases the offender was prosecuted, the case being dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, on payment of costs.

The following is a list of samples taken during 1938 :—

Article.	Genuine	Unsatisfactory.	Article.	Genuine	Unsatisfactory.
Almonds, Ground	1	—	Margarine ...	1	—
Arrowroot ...	1	—	Meat Pie ...	1	—
Baking Powder ...	1	—	Meat, tinned ...	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—	New Milk ...	55	5
Cheese ...	1	—	Olive Oil ...	1	—
Coffee ...	1	—	Peas, tinned ...	1	—
Cream ...	2	—	Pepper ...	1	—
Cream, tinned ...	1	—	Rice ...	1	—
Crisps ...	1	—	Rissoles ...	1	—
Demerara Sugar	1	—	Sausage ...	3	—
Fish Paste ...	1	—	Suet ...	1	—
Flour, Self-Raising	1	—	Syrup of Figs ...	2	—
Honey ...	3	—	Tea ...	2	—
Iodine Tinct. ...	1	—	Treacle ...	1	—
Jam ...	1	—	Vinegar ...	1	—
			Total ...	91	5

### Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

A considerable amount of time and attention was devoted to the work of Meat Inspection.

The trade in cows slaughtered in the district continues to show a steady increase, and the percentage of cow carcasses condemned during the year also shows a substantial increase.

As in previous years, practically the whole of the condemned meat was passed through the two wholesale slaughterhouses, which are located in your district.

On referring to the tabulated record of carcasses inspected and condemned, it will be seen that 55 per cent. of the cows inspected during slaughter were infected more or less with Tuberculosis. Of the 2,823 cow carcasses inspected, no less than 586 whole carcasses were condemned, surely an alarming figure, and one cannot help but think that a Knacker's yard would be the more appropriate place to dump the majority of these old cows.

From the information available, it appears that a large percentage of these old cows are purchased in cattle markets throughout the South of England, and this causes us to wonder whether the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, is being enforced in some localities in the manner intended by the legislature.

In October last, one of the Ministry's Inspectors visited the district to inquire into the manner in which condemned meat was disposed of, and who expressed general satisfaction with the present arrangement.

Of the 5,662 animals slaughtered within your district during the year, no less than 5,441 carcasses were inspected, so that the percentage of uninspected meat leaving the district is very small indeed.

We hear much in the Press these days of the prospect of central Slaughterhouses, and whether such a scheme will materialise remains to be seen. Such a measure would, I feel sure, be welcomed by most Authorities, as by such methods only can the business of Slaughtering be brought under complete and effective control.

The inspection of meat has taken a considerable amount of time and labour, but the work has at all times been conscientiously and effectively carried out.

In the process of meat inspection a case of Anthrax was disclosed in one of the slaughterhouses. This case was promptly reported to the appropriate Authority, who immediately dealt with the case.

The cattle slaughtered for local consumption continues to be of the highest quality, and only a very small quantity of meat was condemned.



I submit herewith a Table shewing the number of animals killed and inspected during the year, under the appropriate headings :—

### **Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	282	2964	225	1321	870
Number inspected ... ..	257	2823	209	1249	903
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i> ... .. Whole carcasses condemned	13	114	10	28	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	14	316	1	18	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	10.5%	15.2%	5.2%	3.6%	0.44%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole carcasses condemned...	9	586	2	Nil	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	27	970	1	Nil	36
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	14%	55.1%	1.4%	Nil	4.3%

NOTE.—A number of pigs were slaughtered outside the area.

### **Fruit and Hop Growing.**

The revised Bye-laws with respect to Fruit and Hop Pickers' accommodation became operative before the last hop-picking season.

All the growers concerned co-operated in a generous manner, and considerable improvements were carried out to the numerous buildings.

I am pleased to record that the requirements of the Bye-laws were complied with in all cases.

The water supply at all centres was very satisfactory, except in one case, where the water was found to be below the required standard. In the absence of a better supply, this water was chlorinated before use.

The health of the pickers and their families was exceptionally good, and the weather conditions throughout were particularly favourable.

One case of infectious disease was notified ; the case was immediately removed to hospital, and the contacts found employment other than the handling of fruit.

Frequent visits were made to the several centres during the period of occupation to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Bye-laws on the part of the occupants, in which matters the owners, in all cases, gave their fullest co-operation.

The number of pickers imported was estimated at approximately 600, but the number occupying the centres was considerably higher.

### **Bakehouses.**

The trade of Bread and Cake making carried on in your district is limited to the requirements of local retail trade only. This trade is gradually declining, as in recent years a large quantity of cakes, etc., are brought into the district by large wholesale undertakings.

The 18 bakehouses registered in your district were periodically inspected and the conditions at all times found satisfactory.

The indifferent and careless handling of bread in the process of delivery to the consumer is now rarely seen.

As in the case of other food, the producer generally has made considerable advance towards producing his article under hygienic conditions, but it is often discouraging when one sees the same food handled and stored in the most unfavourable and unhygienic manner in the home.

### **Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.**

During the year your Council agreed to take over from the County Authority the duties prescribed in the above Order.

Prior to and in anticipation of the " National Rat Week," approximately 500 circulars, etc., were addressed to occupiers of premises throughout the district, and these were followed by visits when this was deemed necessary.

The campaign against the rat, if it is to be of any value, must be ruthlessly pursued by all occupiers of property.

It is, however, difficult to get farmers, and others, to appreciate the loss caused annually to crops, foodstuffs, etc., by the rat.

It is recommended that your Council shall supply gratis to all applicants a supply of one of the well-known reliable poisons, and that the services of a good rat catcher be made available at the expense of the Common Fund.

## **Section F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The year 1938 as a whole was not as favourable as 1937. Three cases of Diphtheria were recorded, and 46 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. The distribution throughout the district of the Scarlet Fever cases is shown in the following table :—

Bramshott	...	...	...	7
Horndean	...	...	...	8
Rowlands Castle	...	...	...	2
Liss	...	...	...	11
Clanfield	...	...	...	6
Eastmeon	...	...	...	3
Hawkley and Empshott	...	...	...	2
Steep	...	...	...	2
Other districts	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	46

The Scarlet Fever incidence per 1,000 population in

Petersfield Rural District ... .. 2.95

The Scarlet Fever incidence in England and Wales ... 2.41

It was not found necessary to close any School during the year on account of this or any other infectious disease.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Work under the Council's Scheme, whereby protective treatment is made available for all children of the district between the ages of 1 and 14 years was continued during the year, with the co-operation of the County Medical Officer and the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools. The number who received full protective treatment during the year 1938 was 153.

Although there was a decrease in the number immunised compared to the previous year, analysis reveals that geographi-

cally there is no diminution in the scope of the scheme. The ideal is to build up as immune a child population as possible by concentrating on the pre-school age groups.

Analysis of the figures for 1938 shews that the number of pre-school children immunised was 46, and the number of school children immunised was 89.

I would like to refer again to the wisdom shewn by the parents of these 135 children in seeking protection against Diphtheria for their children. Although the Rural area has now been almost free from Diphtheria for three years, they have wisely protected their families against a disease which, sooner or later, is bound to return to the district.

No other changes in the Authority's efforts in the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases fall to be reported. The arrangements for disinfection, hospital treatment, examination of contacts, provisions of anti-toxins, etc., remains as reported in the 1935 Annual Report.

### Age Groups of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease.

(Other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Total	Remov'd to Hosp'l	Deaths	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	2	4	3	19	4	4	6	2	1	—	46	42	Nil
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	3	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	7	Nil	9*
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3	—	8	4	Nil

\*Two cases died from Pneumonia, the existence of which had not been previously notified.

**Cancer.**—The deaths from malignant disease numbered 24 in comparison with 32 in the previous year.

The nearest National Regional Radium Centre is at Southampton (Royal South Hants Hospital).

**Prevention of Blindness.**—No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

### **Tuberculosis.**

#### **New Cases and Mortality during 1938.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...				2				1
5 ...		1	2					
15 ...		1	1					
25 ...	1	1		1	1			
35 ...	1	1				2		
45 ...					1			
55 ...	1					1		
65 and upwards	1				1			
TOTALS	4	4	3	3	3	3	—	1

Three cases died from the disease, the existence of which had not previously been notified.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

The total number of cases of tuberculosis on the register on December 31st, 1938, was 78.



